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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **EP-2**

December 19, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**TRASH RESPONSIBILITY ORDINANCE-ANTELOPE VALLEY
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find the proposed Ordinance is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.
2. Approve introduction of the enclosed Ordinance amending Title 20-Utilities of the Los Angeles County Code to require all residents in the unincorporated County areas of the Antelope Valley to subscribe to weekly trash collection service or document that they self-hauled their waste to an authorized solid waste facility.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Illegal dumping is a significant problem in many communities throughout Los Angeles County, especially in the Antelope Valley area. Illegal dumping poses a danger to public health and safety, decreases property values, and lowers the quality of life for County residents. Materials that are illegally dumped may contaminate groundwater, pollute local waterways, create a nesting area for rodents and other vermin, and harm residents as they walk/ride through open areas due to sharp or toxic illegally dumped materials.

The proposed Ordinance will give the County an additional mechanism to curb illegal dumping by requiring all unincorporated Antelope Valley residents to properly dispose of their trash on a weekly basis, either through a contract with a permitted waste hauler or by self-hauling their waste to an authorized solid waste facility. This measure would allow the County to pursue gross illegal dumping violators, who would need to provide proof of their compliance with this Ordinance upon request. Self-hauling of trash would only be allowed provided the resident obtains a free yearly permit from the Department of Public Health, and shows proof that their trash was taken weekly to a landfill. Most residents and businesses will not be affected by this Ordinance since they already properly dispose of their trash on a weekly basis. Similar ordinances have been adopted in surrounding jurisdictions, including Kern and San Bernardino Counties and the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale.

In 1998 the County conducted community meetings in the Antelope Valley to receive feedback on a mandatory trash subscription ordinance. The consensus from the community at that time was that the Ordinance was not necessary. Instead, residents requested further efforts to cleanup illegal dump sites and enforce illegal dumping laws. As a result, Public Works and the Department of Public Health (then the Department of Health Services) recommended to the Board not to adopt the Ordinance at that time, and to instead pursue other efforts to reduce the occurrence of illegal dumping.

Since then, Public Health, Public Works, and other County agencies have implemented/enhanced many new public education, collection, cleanup, and enforcement programs. This includes establishing an illegal dumping hotline, coordinating the cleanup of numerous illegal dump sites, enhancing school education programs, conducting special collection events, providing "free dump days" at both area landfills, establishing a permanent household hazardous and electronic waste collection center (the Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center), and working with the Sheriff's Department to increase their patrols of known illegal dump sites. The largest cleanup efforts included 13 large-scale "legacy" illegal dump sites, which cost over \$1 million to cleanup (with grant assistance from the California Integrated Waste Management Board) and collectively eliminated 10,000 tons of illegally dumped materials. Furthermore, County agencies continue to work with the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force and area town councils to coordinate all illegal dumping activities. The Task Force consists of representatives of Public Works, Public Health, Sheriff, District Attorney's Office, Cities of Palmdale and Lancaster, waste haulers, area town councils, local organizations, and private citizens.

Although these efforts have led to significant improvements since 1998, illegal dumping continues to be a major problem in the Antelope Valley. Consequently, the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force unanimously requested the County to reconsider adoption of a mandatory trash Ordinance as an additional tool in combating illegal dumping. As a result, Public Works, building on the concept of the old proposal, developed the enclosed Trash Responsibility Ordinance. In coordination with Supervisorial District 5 and area town councils, Public Works conducted two public information meetings in 2005 and publicized information online and in newspapers to inform residents and other stakeholders of the County's intent to consider adoption of the proposed Ordinance. The Ordinance was subsequently refined based on community input. Overall, the community is now supportive of the proposed Ordinance, as long as the County continues to conduct its illegal dumping prevention programs.

The Ordinance as currently drafted will be effective only in the Antelope Valley. After 18 months, Public Works and Public Health will report back to the Board regarding the implementation of the proposed Ordinance, its success, and whether it would be effective to expand the proposed Ordinance to other areas of the County.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goal of Children and Families' Well-Being since the Ordinance will deter illegal dumping, thereby protecting public health and safety of Antelope Valley residents, the environment, and improving the quality of life in the unincorporated areas of Antelope Valley.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund. The annual cost for implementing this program is estimated to be \$20,000, and sufficient funds to cover the cost of this program have been included in the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Solid Waste Management Fund Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The enclosed Ordinance has been approved as to form by County Counsel.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The Ordinance authorizes the County to require residents in the unincorporated County areas of the Antelope Valley to subscribe to weekly trash collection service or document that they self-hauled their waste to an authorized solid waste facility. The project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. The project is within a class of projects which have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Section 15308 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, and Class 8 of the County Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There will be no negative impact to current County services or projects as a result of this action.

CONCLUSION

Upon Board approval, please return two approved copies of this letter and the proposed Ordinance to Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. The Department of Public Health has reviewed and concurs with this recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE
Director of Public Works

RF:cw

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Enc.

cc: Auditor Controller
Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel (Judith Fries)
Department of Public Health
District Attorney
Sheriff's Department